

December 18, 2015

*Delivered by email and to permanent address*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to follow up on my earlier communication to you regarding your alleged violation of Western Washington University's Student Rights and Responsibilities Code. On November 30, 2015, I handed you, and emailed you, a notice that you were placed on immediate interim suspension due to an alleged violation of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code. You did not attend the meeting scheduled on December 4, 2015 to discuss your interim suspension. I emailed you on December 9, 2015 notifying you of a meeting on December 17, 2015 to discuss your alleged violation of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code. You did not attend that meeting. Because you have not met with me, or contacted me regarding any response you have, I am unable to take any information you have into consideration as I make a decision about this matter.

The information I have indicates that University Police were contacted by someone concerned about a post on YikYak that said "Let's lynch her" in an apparent reference to [REDACTED] Associated Students president. Police were contacted by AS board members [REDACTED], as well as a few other students. All expressed that they were very scared for their safety. [REDACTED] said she was petrified to leave the police station and had tears running down her face while speaking to officers. She noted that there were multiple social media comments but she specified the lynching comment as one that caused her fear.

University Police contacted YikYak and requested information about the lynching comment. YikYak provided the associated cell phone number for the comment and police found that the phone was associated with your name. You were contacted in class in Fraser Hall at 2 p.m. on November 30th and went with police to Campus Services where you were asked about your use of YikYak. You said you'd deleted the app recently because you were banned from it. You said you had seen a post that alleged the AS president had commented 'white people are like the baby KKK' and you found it distasteful. You said that you responded with 'let's lynch her.' You said you saw a response to your post that said 'not cool' and you deleted your comment. You said your comment used the language the KKK might use and you assumed [REDACTED] was dark skinned. When police questioned you about how the AS president might be expected to feel about your comment, you said she would feel threatened. You said you had no intent on lynching anyone. You said you made the comment on your phone in your dorm room. Police later arrested you for Malicious Harassment.

Based on this, I am finding that there is sufficient information that you violated the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code. While your comment may not have been intended to threaten anyone, it

certainly seems to have been intended to intimidate as noted by your statement to police that you were purposeful in choosing to use the word 'lynch'; therefore I am finding you in violation of the Harassment [WAC 516-21-110] section of the Code. Additionally, and despite whatever intent you had, your decision to anonymously post a statement/encouragement to lynch a particular student is a threat to that student as well as a communication of a threatening nature. More so, your comment had the effect of threatening at least several other students who were aware of it and others who later became aware of it. Beyond that, we do not know how many other members of the Western community felt reasonably threatened by your YikYak posting. Therefore I am finding you in violation of the Conduct that Threatens Health or Safety [WAC 516-21-060] section of the Code.

In making decisions about the appropriate consequences for violations of the Code, I take into consideration the objectives of the student conduct process which are stated in the Code's introduction: to ensure that students act in a manner consistent with high standards of scholarship and behavior, and to maintain the safety and well-being of all members of the university community. The impact your YikYak post had on the Western community was unprecedented. Because of the violations of the Code, and because of the unprecedented impact, I am expelling you from Western Washington University. You are permanently separated from the University and are not eligible for readmission and therefore are trespassing from campus permanently. Violating this trespass may result in a citation by police for trespassing.

You have a right of appeal as stated in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code. Please carefully review the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code found here: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=516-21-280> Section (3) notes how to request a review. If you wish to request a review/appeal, your deadline for doing so is 5 p.m. Monday January 4, 2016 (this deadline is adjusted due to the upcoming holidays). All policies, and the Code, as well as your rights under the Code, including your right to request a review and directions on how to request a review, can be found linked from here: <http://www.wvu.edu/dos/office/conduct/index.shtml> (pdf version of entire Code).

Lastly, following up on the section of my email to you on December 9th regarding your coursework, I checked your academic transcript and noted that two of your faculty provided you incomplete grades; the third faculty provided you with a Z grade. You are free to contact your faculty to arrange a way to complete your coursework but you may not complete it on-campus. You are welcome to utilize the Testing Center as it is located off-campus. Please understand that it is your responsibility to contact faculty to arrange completing your coursework, and the manner in which you may do so is restricted by your trespass and whatever guidelines they provide for appropriate completion of your coursework. If you do not arrange completion of the coursework, your K grades will revert to F grades.

If you have any questions, please contact the Dean of Students office at 360 650-3540. I will be out of the office beginning today and not returning until January 4, 2016.

█ despite your behavior and this finding, I wish you the best of luck and I hope that you learn from this experience.

Best,

Michael Sledge  
Assistant Dean of Students  
Office of Student Life  
Viking Union 506  
Western Washington University  
Michael.sledge@wwu.edu  
360 650-3706

IR#: [REDACTED]